United Nations A/C.1/52/PV.22

General Assembly

Official Records

Fifty-second session

First Committee

22nd Meeting
Thursday, 13 November 1997, 10 a.m.
New York

Chairman: Mr. Nkgowe . . . . . (Botswana)

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

Agenda items 62 to 83 (*continued*)

Action on all draft resolutions submitted under all items

The Chairman: As I informed the Committee yesterday afternoon, the Committee will proceed to take a decision on draft resolutions A/C.1/52/L.27/Rev.1, L.36/Rev.1 and L.6.

I shall first call upon those delegations wishing to introduce revised draft resolutions.

Mr. Hayashi (Japan): I would like to introduce the revised draft resolution on small arms, which is contained in document A/C.1/52/L.27/Rev.1.

I introduced draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.27 at the Committee's meeting on 6 November, and I will not repeat what I said then.

Many delegations are interested in draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.27, because it is very important, and we have received some comments on it from various delegations. My delegation, together with other sponsors, tried very hard to accommodate these comments, so that the draft resolution could command overwhelming support in the Committee. After intensive consultations, we have agreed to revise the draft resolution. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support and flexibility which the sponsors and other delegations concerned have shown during our consultations.

In A/C.1/52/L.27/Rev.1 we have added a new preambular paragraph, now the fifth, which concerns the right of self-determination. This paragraph is the same as the fourth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution two years ago, which became resolution A/50/70 B and which was adopted by an overwhelming majority. I would like to express, on behalf of the sponsors, our sincere hope that this draft resolution on small arms will also be adopted by an overwhelming majority.

The Chairman: I shall now call on delegations wishing to make general statements on any draft resolutions contained in any cluster.

Mr. Akram (Pakistan): I asked to speak for two purposes. First, I would like to draw attention to the revision of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/52/L.42. The revised draft resolution, document A/C.1/52/L.42/Rev.1, has been circulated this morning. As we indicated yesterday, the first preambular paragraph of the original draft, which referred to the report of the Secretary-General on reform, has been deleted.

With that deletion, and indeed with the conclusion of the exercise in the Working Group on the reform process, we believe that this draft resolution should now be seen independently, and we hope that all delegations will examine it on its merits.

The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.42/Rev.1 are open to consultations with any delegation or delegations which may wish to suggest improvements to its text. I sincerely hope that the same constructive approach will be adopted with regard to this draft resolution as has been

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manifested in this Committee throughout this session on various other issues and draft resolutions that we have adopted.

In the same spirit, I would like to offer a proposal with regard to the draft resolution in document A/C.1/52/L.27/Rev.1, which has just been introduced by the Ambassador of Japan. First, I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the representative of Japan and to the co-sponsors of his draft resolution for the flexibility and constructive spirit that have been displayed with regard to the changes that have been introduced into it.

The reinsertion of a reference to the principles of self-defence and the principle of self-determination in the preamble has considerably eased the difficulties that my delegation had confronted with regard to the substance of the report [A/52/298] of the Secretary-General and some of the recommendations of the Panel of Governmental Experts.

We have one problem, and that is with the paragraph in the draft resolution that endorses the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report. In order to safeguard our position, and to be in a position to support draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.27/Rev.1, I would like to suggest that a few words be added at the end of operative paragraph 1. We think they would make the draft resolution more objective and more acceptable to the membership of the Committee. I suggest that at the end of operative paragraph 1, the semi-colon should be replaced by a comma and the following should be added:

> "bearing in mind the principles referred to above and the views of Member States expressed on the recommendations;".

With this addition, which we feel would not compromise either the recommendations or their endorsement, but would safeguard the positions of those delegations which may have reservations on some of the recommendations, the draft resolution could become generally acceptable to the Committee. I very much hope that Japan and the co-sponsors can find it possible to respond positively to this proposal.

Mr. Hayashi (Japan): I thank the representative of Pakistan for his very cooperative spirit on this draft resolution on small arms. At the same time, my delegation regrets his proposal to amend the draft resolution.

I understand that, in accordance with rule 120 of the rules of procedure, action on the amendment will be taken tomorrow. In the meantime, I request through you, Mr. Chairman, that the Secretariat distribute this proposed amendment in writing as soon as possible, in order for us to study carefully the representative of Pakistan's proposal.

The Chairman: Action on draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.27/Rev.1 will be deferred until tomorrow.

As no other delegations wish to make general statements, the Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.36/Rev.1.

I call on the representative of Algeria to introduce it.

Mr. Mesdoua (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): As the Committee will recall, I introduced draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.36 on 5 November 1997, and my delegation does not intend to repeat the statement it made then. Subsequently intensive negotiations took place among the sponsors and all interested delegations with regard to the draft resolution and the revised version on which the Committee is to take a decision today. The sponsors agreed to include a new paragraph, which is now the eighth preambular paragraph.

On behalf of all the sponsors, I wish to thank all delegations for their constructive spirit and their full cooperation. With these changes, the sponsors hope and trust that the Committee can now adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

The Chairman: As no other delegations wish to explain their position or vote before a decision is taken on draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.36/Rev.1, the Committee will now take action on it.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee

Mr. Lin Kuo-Chung (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.36, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", was introduced by the representative of Algeria at the 15th meeting of the Committee on 5 November 1997. The draft resolution was sponsored by those countries listed in the draft itself and in document A/C.1/INF/2. The revised version, draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.36./Rev.1, has just been introduced by the representative of Algeria.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the Committee adopt it without a vote.

May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.36/Rev.1 was adopted.

The Chairman: I now call on those delegations that wish to explain their position or vote after the decision.

Mr. Danieli (Israel): Israel is satisfied that a draft resolution which is particularly important to all Mediterranean States has been adopted without a vote. It has already been with us for some years, and it sets out some major principles, with a view to strengthening security and promoting a multilateral action-oriented cooperative dialogue between States of the region.

The draft resolution can remain a matter for consensus as long as it is not harnessed for short-sighted objectives. It must continue to reflect the spirit in which it was conceived and adopted.

It is the position of my delegation that all security matters pertaining to the Middle East are subject to the peace process in the region as a whole. Operative paragraph 5 does not take this principle into account. It is Israel's view that primacy should be attached to regional security arrangements, which can be complemented where appropriate by endorsing global agreements.

Mr. Dehghani (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation supports the basic thrust of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/52/L.36/Rev.1. However, we would like to go on record with our reservations about the eighth preambular paragraph, on the Middle East peace process.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a principled position on the Middle East peace process, and does not believe that the current process will lead to the fulfilment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region.

The Chairman: As no other delegation wishes to speak at this stage, the Committee will proceed to draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.6.

No members of the Committee wish to explain their position or vote before a decision is taken on the draft resolution, so the Committee will now take action on it.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Lin Kuo-Chung (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.6, entitled "Regional confidence-building measures", was introduced by the representative of Gabon on behalf of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa at the 16th meeting of the First Committee on 6 November 1997. The draft resolution was sponsored by Gabon on behalf of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. In connection with this draft resolution, I would like to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the programme budget implications, as contained in document A/C.1/52/L.50.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the Committee adopt the draft resolution without a vote. If I hear no objection, I will take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.6 was adopted.

The Chairman: As no representatives wish to explain their position on the draft resolution just adopted, and no sponsors of draft resolutions are ready to introduce them now for action, that concludes our business for today.

Tomorrow the Committee will take decisions on the remaining draft resolutions that are ready for action: draft resolutions A/C.1/52/L.43, L.2, L.3, L.11/Rev.1, L.42/Rev.1, L.51 and L/27/Rev.1.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.